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Lords, the authors declare that the decision has "created an intolerable situation which Parliament will quite inevitably be driven to remedy," just as was the case in 1871-6 and again in 1906, when it rescued "the unions from the narrow views taken by the judges."

Regarding the matter of trade union membership the authors state that at the end of 1910 it exceeded two and a quarter millions, a total surpassed only by that of 1907, when the membership stood at 2,406,746. The distribution of trade unionism among the various industries remains much as it was in 1894, "with the significant exception that the increase has been greatest in the trades and in the districts which were already most effectively organized." The geographical distribution of membership also remains practically the same, "except that the rural districts are more than ever destitute, and the great industrial centers better provided than before." The financial position as well as the internal organization of the great trade unions have improved with each succeeding year. Brief comment is also made regarding the growth of federal organization among the unions, the success of political action, the increasing acceptance of the principle of collective bargaining, the outcome of the more important strikes and the changes brought about in the legal status of trade unionism by the late decisions of the House of Lords.

The years following 1894 have been rich with incidents and developments in the trade union world of England, and it is to be regretted that the Webbs have not brought the volume down to date.

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**Webb, Sydney and Beatrice.** *The Prevention of Destitution.* Pp. vi, 348.

Price, \$1.50. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911.

It would hardly be unfair to consider this volume as a continuation of the minority report of the recent poor law commission. The attempt is made to present constructive suggestions as the title suggests. Trenchant criticism of the existing order in England is by no means absent.

Destitution as a disease of society is first considered, and it is shown that the majority of the destitute are such through causes over which they have little control—social maladjustment, Dr. Patten would say. If existing medical knowledge were utilized in *every* case of sickness most of it would be prevented. Why this is not done under England's system is pointed out. The neglect of childhood is a potent factor, and the lack of some uniform plan for the various public activities is set forth. Sweating and unemployment are again mighty causes. "How to Prevent Unemployment and Underemployment," the first long chapter of the volume, is an elaboration of the above mentioned report.

Chapter VII, "Insurance," is probably the most significant in the light of England's program. How insurance may be widely used by the state without becoming a new form of outdoor relief and thus undermining the moral standards is most important. The authors feel that there is "an

obsession of the public mind in favor of insurance." Yet insurance must change to meet the demands of experience, and the Webbs believe that the more compulsory it is the more rapidly will the public see the necessity for a preventive policy.

Chapter VIII, "The Enlarged Sphere of Voluntary Agencies," is a fresh and stimulating discussion. The English development of the charity organization movement is apparently quite different from that in America, though the writers display little familiarity with our situation. The overlapping, lack of wise methods, etc., is justly criticised. Here in America the need of some common register for those relieved is felt and often discussed—to it one chapter is devoted.

Very timely, too, is the closing chapter on "The Moral Factor," for "the researcher and experimenter will have to remember that the worst of the evils which he is seeking to overcome is not the material privation or physical suffering which destitution connotes, but the moral degradation with which it is, in modern communities, almost always accompanied."

The book is written in popular style, with all references at the end of each chapter. It deals primarily with English conditions. Nevertheless, the views presented have a far wider significance, and all Americans dealing with the problems of poverty will get much benefit therefrom. Many of the criticisms apply in America and deserve careful consideration. Many of the positive suggestions do not fit our conditions, as is to be expected. A thoughtful and thought-provoking discussion.

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**Wehberg, Hans.** *Capture in War On Land and Sea.* Pp. xxxv, 228. Price, 5s. London: P. S. King & Son, 1911.

What the armed forces of the belligerents may and may not do with property, public or private, on land or on sea forms the subject matter of this volume. After an interesting historical introduction the author takes up the seizure of property on land with especial reference to the regulations adopted at the two Hague Conferences. The short chapter on railways is particularly interesting.

Dr. Wehberg then passes on to what seems to be his chief interest in the book: "The Necessity for the Abolition of the Law of Prize at Sea." He first devotes a chapter to the reasons for the retention of the right of capture, offering arguments in refutation of the reasons as they are passed in review. In the next chapter a general argument for the abolition of the seizure of property at sea is given. Neither the arguments for nor against can be said to show any great originality of subject matter or treatment, but the authorities have been well handled and the opinions and experience of statesmen, jurists, economists, and shipowners have been drawn up. The treatment is logical and not too technical for the comprehension of the general reader.

It is perhaps hardly fair to lay too much emphasis upon certain faults